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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

- A. This action is in response to the following communications: Amendment filed: 10/14/2008. This action is made **Final**.
- B. Claims 1 and 3-37 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 3-37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bogdan, Jeffery L. (US 6,169,984 B1), herein referred to as “Bogdan”.

As for independent claims 1 and 18 Bogdan teaches a computer program product tangibly embodied in a computer-readable storage medium, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a data processing apparatus to execute a method for navigating user interface elements on a display screen (figure 1; col.2, lines 45-57); the interface elements being arranged in order into user interface element groups having assigned group identifier characters (col.5, lines 58-60); and the interface elements indicating on the display screen, an element currently having focus to receive user input(col.6, line 16); the method comprising: detecting a user navigation input comprising one of forward user navigation input key or a backward user navigation input key (figure 3, col.6, lines 24-39), the forward user navigation input comprises a forward modifier key press combined with a key press of a first group identifier character, and the backward user navigation input comprises a backward modifier key press combined with a key press of a second group

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identifier character (col.7, lines 1-8, 19-21 and 27-30);

identifying a selected group of user interface elements associated with the first or second group identifier character (col.7, lines 19-30); and shift shifting input focus to a user interface element in the selected group based on the user navigation input key, wherein, when the user navigation input key is detected processed (col.7, lines 42-44); determining a current that contains the interface element currently having input focus (col.7, lines 42-44), and

determining a target group that corresponds to the group identifier key press (col.6, lines 17-23; figure 3); wherein when the user navigation input key is the forward user navigation input focus is shifted to an interface element next in order in the current group if the current group is the same as the target group, or input focus is shifted to a first use interface element in the target group if the current group is not the same as the target group, and wherein when the user navigation input key is the backward user navigation input key, input focus is shifted to an interface element previous in order in the current group if the current group is the same as the target group, or input focus is shifted to an interface element last in order in the target group if the current group is not the same as the target group (col.6, lines 30-32; col.7, lines 19-45 and col.8, lines 7-10,21-32).

As for dependent claims 3-8,19-22, 32 and 35, Bogdan teaches the product of claim 1 and corresponding method of claim 18, wherein:

- As for claims 3, 19 the user interface elements have associated text labels, and wherein the user interface elements associated with the group identifier are user interface elements having an associated text label with a first character that matches the group identifier (figure 3; col.6, lines 13-23).
- As for claims 4, 19 a character matches a group identifier if both are the same character regardless of character case (col.7, lines 40-53).

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- As for claims 5, 20 a character matches a group identifier if both are the same character in the same case (col.5, lines 58-62).
- As for claim 6, 21 group the user interface elements into groups based on the first character of the associated text label of the elements at application run time (figure 3; col.6, lines 13-23)
- As for claims 7, 21 group only the user interface elements in a current screen of the application into groups based on the first character of the associated text label (col.10, lines 31-33).
- As for claim 22, detect a sequence of forward user navigation input presses, the sequence having a first navigation key press and a last navigation key press; initialize the navigation string when the first navigation key press is detected (note claim 9 analysis above); start a time out interval with each forward user navigation input press; and determine the last navigation key press as the key press after which no forward user navigation input presses are detected within the time out interval (figure 6).
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- As for claims 8, 32 and 35 wherein, if there is no current group, the target group is deemed to be different from the current group and input focus is shifted to a first user interface element in the target group (col.6, lines 15-17).

As for independent claims 9 and 23, Bogdan teaches a computer program product tangibly embodied in a computer-readable storage medium the product comprising instructions operable to cause a data processing apparatus to execute a method for navigating user interface elements on a display screen (col.2, lines 45-57); the interface elements being arranged in order into user interface element groups having assigned group identifier characters (figure 3; col.6, lines 17-23 and col.7, lines 27-39); and the interface elements indicating, on the display screen, an element currently having focus to receive user input (col.7, line 21); the method comprising: detecting a sequence of one or more user navigation inputs

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key each user navigation input key being comprising one of a forward user navigation input key or a backward user navigation input key (col.8, lines 21-32; col.10, lines 25-33), the forward user navigation input comprises a forward modifier key press combined with a key press of a first group identifier character, and the backward user navigation input comprises a backward modifier key press combined with a key press of a second group identifier character (note the analysis of claim 1 above); generating a navigation string from the sequence of one or more group identifier characters for the one or more user navigation inputs keys (col.5, lines 58-62); and shift shifting input focus to a user interface element identified by the navigation string (col.7, line 21); wherein, when the user navigation input key is detected pressed determining a current group determining, that contains the interface element currently having input focus, and determining a target group that corresponds to the group identifier key press (col.5, lines 58-62, col.7, lines 1-21; col.10, lines 25-33); wherein when the user navigation input key is the forward user navigation input focus is shifted to an interface element next in order in the current group if the current group is the same as the target group, or input focus is shifted to a first user interface element in the target group if the current group is not the same as the target group, and wherein when the user navigation input key is the backward user navigation input key; input focus is shifted to user an interface element previous in order in the current group if the current group is the same as the target group, or input focus is shifted to an interface element last in order in the target group if the current group is not the same as the target group (note the analysis of claim 1 above).

As for dependent claims 10-12,24-26,33 and 36 Bogdan teaches the product of claim 9 and corresponding method of claim 23, wherein instructions to detect a sequence of one or more navigation key presses comprise instructions to:

- As for claims 10, 24 detect a sequence of forward user navigation input presses, the sequence having a first navigation key press and a last navigation key press; initialize the navigation string when the first navigation key press is detected (note claim 9 analysis above); start a time out interval with each forward user navigation input press; and determine

- the last navigation key press as the key press after which no forward user navigation input presses are detected within the time out interval (figure 6).
- As for claims 11, 25 detect a sequence of backward user navigation input presses, the sequence having a first navigation key press and a last navigation key press; initialize the navigation string when the first navigation key press is detected; start a time out interval with each backward user navigation input press (figure 6; col.9, lines 10-40); and determine the last navigation key press as the key press after which no backward user navigation input presses are detected within the time out interval (note the above analysis of forward navigation).
 - As for claims 12, 26 shift input focus to a next user interface element having a text label starting with the same characters as the characters in the navigation string, if the navigation key is a forward user navigation input; and shift input focus to a previous user interface element having a text label starting with the same characters as the characters in the navigation string, if the navigation key is a backward user navigation input (col.8, lines 21-32 and col.10, lines 25-33).
 - As for claims 33 and 36 wherein, if there is no current group, the target group is deemed to be different from the current group and input focus is shifted to a first user interface element in the target group (col.6, lines 15-17).

As for independent claims 13 and 27, Bogdan teaches computer program product tangibly embodied in a computer-readable storage medium, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a data processing apparatus to execute a method for navigating user interface elements on a display screen;. the interface elements being arranged in order into user interface element groups having assigned group identifier characters (col.5, lines 58-62, col.10, lines 25-33); and the interface elements indicating, on the display screen, an element currently having focus to receive user input; the method comprising: detect detecting an ensemble of sequential user activation inputs key each user activation input key comprising a character, thereby detecting a sequence of characters, each user

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activation input key being comprising one of a forward user activation input key or a backward user activation input key (col.8, lines 21-32; col.10, lines 25-33), the forward user activation input comprises a forward activation modifier key press combined with a key press of a first .group identifier character and the backward user activation input comprises a backward activation modifier key press combined with a key press of a second group identifier character key (note the analysis of claim 1 above); identifying a matching activation user interface element by finding an activation user interface element having a label matching the sequence of characters (col.5, lines 58-62); and performing an action associated with the matching activation user interface element; wherein, when the user activation input key is detected pressed (col.7, lines 1-21), : determining a current group that contains the interface element currently having input focus (col.7, line 21), and determining a target group that corresponds to the group identifier key press(col.7, lines 22-53); wherein when the user activation input key is the forward user activation input key, input focus is shifted to an interface element next in order in the current group if the current group is the same as the target group, or input focus is shifted to a first use interface element in the target group if the current group is not the same as the target group, and wherein when the user activation input key is the backward user activation input focus is shifted to an interface element previous in order in the current group if the current group is the same as the target group, or input focus is shifted to an interface element last in order in the target group if the current group is not the same as the target group (note the analysis of claim 1 and 9 above).

As for dependent claims 14-17, 28-31, 34 and 37, Bogdan teaches the product of claim 13 and corresponding method of claim 27, wherein instructions to detect an ensemble comprise instructions to:

- As for claims 14, 28 detect a sequence of one or more characters that uniquely identifies an activation user interface element (col.10, lines 25-33)
- As for claims 15, 29 the sequence of one or more characters is a sequence of identical group identifiers (note the analysis of claims 13, 1 and 9).

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- As for claims 16, 30 detect one or more sequential activation key presses entered by a user within a time threshold (figure 6)
- As for claims 17, 31 the pressing and releasing of an activation modifier key delimits the activation key presses in the ensemble (col.8, lines 21-32).
- As for claims 34, 37 wherein, if there is no current group, the target group is deemed to be different from the current group and input focus is shifted to a first user interface element in the target group (col.6, lines 15-17).

(Note:) It is noted that any citation to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. In re Heck, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-33, 216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting In re Lemelson, 397 F.2d 1006, 1009, 158 USPQ 275, 277 (CCPA 1968)).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/14/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

After careful review of the amended claims (given the broadest interpretation) and the remarks provided by the Applicant along with the cited reference(s) the Examiner does not agree with the Applicant for at least the reasons provided below:

A1. Applicant argues that Bogdan does not teach that the components containing groups of user interface elements have assigned group identifier characters.

R1. Examiner does not agree, a user using the system accesses a group by using the corresponding character in the string command "Alt" + "X", where x equals the value of what group to graphically display (at least in (col.5, lines 58-62, col.10, lines 25-33)).

A2. Applicant argues that Bogdan does not teach forward or backward navigation input, nor does Bogdan disclose combining a forward or backward modifier key press with a group identifier character key press.

R2. Examiner does not agree, the Applicant states in the remarks that Bogdan system can not determine which group to access using identifier key inputs in such that the user of the system would not be able to select particular groups tat the user desires to select. If this state were to be true then the system of Bogdan would not give means to select groups and to forward and backward navigation within the group and groups as is stated (col.5, lines 58-62; col.7, lines 1-53; col.8, lines 21-32; col.10, lines 25-33)

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Augustine whose telephone number is 571-270-1056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 7:30- 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas Augustine/
Examiner
Art Unit 2179
January 15, 2009

/Ba Huynh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2179